CLAIMS

I claim:

1.   A method for programming intelligent household appliance network

5   associated with a user, comprising:

      inputting a plurality of data associated with the user in a database on a server;

      accessing over a first network the database from an intelligent controller;

      receiving the plurality of data from the database at the intelligent controller;

      transmitting over a home network a portion of data from the plurality of data to

10   each appliance in the household appliance network, and

      configuring each appliance in the household appliance network in response to the

portion of data that was received at each appliance.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein inputting further includes.

15   accessing a graphical interface associated with at least one appliance in the

household appliance network; and

      entering at least one piece of data requested by the graphical interface.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein inputting further includes displaying a

20   web page upon a web device.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein inputting further includes accessing the

graphical interface that is associated with a microwave oven.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated an oven.

6.   The method of claim 2, wherein inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a breadmaker.

7.   The method of claim 2, wherein inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a coffeemaker.

8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

entering a day of week in the graphical interface; and

entering a time during the day of week in the graphical interface that the coffeemaker will be turned on.

9.   The method of claim 2, further including:

synchronizing a clock in the intelligent controller upon receipt of a time message over the first network and identification of the time zone; and

transmitting a time synchronization signal over the home network to the appliances to synchronize a clock in each of the appliances.

10. The method of claim 2, further including:

synchronizing a clock in the intelligent controller upon receipt of a time message over the first network, and

displaying on a display in the intelligent controller a human perceptible time

5 indicator.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein configuring further comprises:

receiving at an appliance in the household appliance network a plurality of recipe programs in the portion of data; and

10 storing the plurality of recipe programs in a memory located in the appliance.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

converting a code that is scanned by a bar code reader into a digital signal at the appliance;

15 selecting a recipe program from the plurality of recipe programs associated with the digital signal; and

configuring the appliance in accordance with the recipe program.

13.   The method of 11, further comprising:

converting a code that is scanned by a bar code reader into a digital signal at the

appliance;

determining that none of the recipe programs in memory are associated with the

5   digital signal; and

transmitting to the intelligent controller the digital signal over the home network.

14.   The method of 13, further comprising:

transmitting the digital signal from the intelligent controller to the server over the

10   first network; and

receiving from the server a new program recipe for the appliance associated with

the digital signal.

15.   The method of claim 1, wherein one of the appliances in the household

15   appliance network is a coffeemaker further comprising:

signaling from the coffeemaker to the intelligent controller over the home

network that the coffeemaker is in a state selected from the group consisting of not ready

to brew, ready to brew, brewing, and coffee ready; and

displaying on a display at the intelligent controller that the coffeemaker is in the

20   state.

16.   An intelligent appliance system associated with a user, comprising:

a graphical interface that enables entry of a plurality of data associated with the user in a database associated with a server accessible via a first network;

an intelligent controller connected to a home network and the first network that is in receipt of the plurality of data from the database by communication over the first

5 network; and

a plurality of household appliances each connected to the home network and each having a controller that is responsive to some portion of the plurality of data.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

10 a clock in the intelligent controller being set in response to a time message sent by the server over the first network; and

an appliance clock located in at least one of the plurality of appliances that synchronizes to a time signal sent by the intelligent controller over the home network

15 18. The system of claim 17, wherein a plurality of alarms associated with the clock are set at the intelligent controller upon receipt of the plurality of data.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the intelligent radio includes a radio, the radio is configured with a plurality of preset radio stations upon receipt of the plurality of

20 data.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein a plurality of music alarms are each associated with a different day and more three or more of the plurality of music alarms

are associated with an at least three different preset radio stations from the plurality of preset radio stations.

21. The system of claim 16, wherein a coffeemaker with a clock and a memory is one of the plurality of appliances and the portion of data contains at least one turn on time that is stored in the coffeemaker memory.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising:

a state message that is sent to the intelligent controller from the coffeemaker in response to the at least one turn on time being stored in memory.

23. The system of claim 22, further comprising:

a human perceptible indicator at the intelligent controller that indicates the state of the coffeemaker in response to receipt of the state message.

24. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

a bar code reader connected to an at least one household appliance of the plurality of household appliances that is able to scan a bar code;

a bar code controller in the at least one household appliance that converts the bar code that was scanned into a digital signal; and

a controller that selects a recipe program from a memory in the at least one of the household appliances that is associated with the digital signal and configures the at least one household appliance upon execution of the recipe program.

25.   The system of claim 16, further comprising:

a bar code reader connected to at least one household appliance of the plurality of household appliances that is able to scan a bar code;

a bar code controller in the at least one household appliance that converts the bar code that was scanned into a digital signal;

a controller in the at least one household appliance in response to the digital signal being an unknown digital signal transmits the digital signal over the home network to the intelligent controller, wherein the intelligent controller send the unknown digital signal over the first network to the database where a recipe program associated with the unknown digital signal is selected and eventually sent back through the intelligent controller to the at least one household appliance.

26.   The system of claim 25, wherein a predetermined interval expires at the intelligent controller prior to the unknown digital signal being sent over the first network.

27.   A system for programming intelligent household appliance network associated with a user, comprising:

means for inputting a plurality of data associated with the user in a database on a server;

means for accessing over a first network the database from an intelligent controller;

means for receiving the plurality of data from the database at the intelligent

controller;

means for transmitting over a home network a portion of data from the plurality of

data to each appliance in the household appliance network, and

5   means for configuring each appliance in the household appliance network in

response to the portion of data that was received at each appliance.

28.   The system of claim 27, wherein means for inputting further includes:

means for accessing a graphical interface associated with at least one appliance in

10   the household appliance network; and

means for entering at least one piece of data requested by the graphical interface.

29.   The system of claim 28, wherein means for inputting further includes

means for displaying a web page upon a web device.

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30.   The system of claim 28, wherein means for inputting further includes

means for accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a microwave oven.

31.   The system of claim 28, wherein means for inputting further includes

20   means for accessing the graphical interface that is associated an oven.

32.   The method of claim 28, wherein means for inputting further includes

means for accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a breadmaker.

33.   The method of claim 28, wherein means for inputting further includes means for accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a coffeemaker.

5   34.   The system of claim 33, further comprising:

means for entering a day of week in the graphical interface; and

means for entering a time during the day of week in the graphical interface that the coffeemaker will be turned on.

10   35.   The system of claim 28, further including:

means for synchronizing a clock in the intelligent controller upon receipt of a time message over the first network and identification of the time zone; and

means for transmitting a time synchronization signal over the home network to the appliances to synchronize a clock in each of the appliances.

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36.   The system of claim 28, further including:

means for synchronizing a clock in the intelligent controller upon receipt of a time message over the first network, and

means for displaying on a display in the intelligent controller a human perceptible

20   time indicator.

37.   The system of claim 27, wherein means for configuring further comprises.

means for receiving at an appliance in the household appliance network a plurality of recipe programs in the portion of data; and

means for storing the plurality of recipe programs in a memory located in the appliance.

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38.   The system of claim 37, further comprising:

means for converting a code that is scanned by a bar code reader into a digital signal at the appliance;

means for selecting a recipe program from the plurality of recipe programs

10   associated with the digital signal; and

means for configuring the appliance in accordance with the recipe program.

39.   The system of 37, further comprising:

means for converting a code that is scanned by a bar code reader into a digital

15   signal at the appliance;

means for determining that none of the recipe programs in memory are associated with the digital signal; and

means for transmitting to the intelligent controller the digital signal over the home network.

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40.   The method of 39, further comprising:

means for transmitting the digital signal from the intelligent controller to the server over the first network; and

means for receiving from the server a new program recipe for the appliance associated with the digital signal.

41.   The system of claim 27, wherein one of the appliances in the household appliance network is a coffeemaker further comprising:

means for signaling from the coffeemaker to the intelligent controller over the home network that the coffeemaker is in a state selected from the group consisting of not ready to brew, ready to brew, brewing, and coffee ready; and

means for displaying on a display at the intelligent controller that the coffeemaker is in the state.

42. A machine readable signal-bearing medium containing instructions that cause a system to perform a method for programming intelligent household appliance network associated with a user, the method comprising:

inputting a plurality of data associated with the user in a database on a server;

5   accessing over a first network the database from an intelligent controller;

receiving the plurality of data from the database at the intelligent controller;

transmitting over a home network a portion of data from the plurality of data to each appliance in the household appliance network, and

configuring each appliance in the household appliance network in response to the

10   portion of data that was received at each appliance.

43. The machine-readable signal-bearing machine readable medium of claim 42, wherein inputting further includes:

accessing a graphical interface associated with at least one appliance in the

15   household appliance network; and

entering at least one piece of data requested by the graphical interface.

44. The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, wherein inputting further includes displaying a web page upon a web device.

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45. The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, wherein inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a microwave oven.

46. The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, wherein inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated an oven.

5 47. The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, wherein inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a breadmaker.

48. The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, wherein 10 inputting further includes accessing the graphical interface that is associated with a coffeemaker.

49. The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 48, further comprising:

15 entering a day of week in the graphical interface; and

entering a time during the day of week in the graphical interface that the coffeemaker will be turned on.

50.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, further including:

synchronizing a clock in the intelligent controller upon receipt of a time message over the first network and identification of the time zone; and

5   transmitting a time synchronization signal over the home network to the appliances to synchronize a clock in each of the appliances.

51.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 43, further including:

10   synchronizing a clock in the intelligent controller upon receipt of a time message over the first network, and

displaying on a display in the intelligent controller a human perceptible time indicator.

15   52.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 42, wherein configuring further comprises:

receiving at an appliance in the household appliance network a plurality of recipe programs in the portion of data; and

storing the plurality of recipe programs in a memory located in the appliance

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53.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 42, further comprising:

converting a code that is scanned by a bar code reader into a digital signal at the appliance;

5   selecting a recipe program from the plurality of recipe programs associated with the digital signal; and

configuring the appliance in accordance with the recipe program.

54.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 52, further

10   comprising:

converting a code that is scanned by a bar code reader into a digital signal at the appliance;

determining that none of the recipe programs in memory are associated with the digital signal; and

15   transmitting to the intelligent controller the digital signal over the home network.

55.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 54, further comprising:

transmitting the digital signal from the intelligent controller to the server over the

20   first network; and

receiving from the server a new program recipe for the appliance associated with the digital signal.

56.   The machine-readable signal-bearing medium of claim 42, wherein one of

the appliances in the household appliance network is a coffeemaker further comprising:

signaling from the coffeemaker to the intelligent controller over the home

network that the coffeemaker is in a state selected from the group consisting of not ready

5   to brew, ready to brew, brewing, and coffee ready; and

displaying on a display at the intelligent controller that the coffeemaker is in the

state.

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